



## Message from Kevin McKellar



Dear Parent/Carer,

We said goodbye to our Japanese exchange students yesterday morning. I was so impressed with the whole experience. Learning how to be a host is a great skill and I have watched our Year 9 and 10 students mature and develop as a result of being a successful host.

Many of the parents talked to me about the value of this experience. This was a learning point for them too. We were deeply touched by the hugs and the tears and the genuine warmth outside Hendon School yesterday. Our Cherry Blossom is coming into bloom and as we waved goodbye, we certainly had a strong sense of our unbreakable bond with the Konan High School.

Miss Kidoguchi and I will be attending a meeting at the Japan Foundation on Thursday to talk about the importance of Japanese in primary and secondary schools. We will always be promoting the importance of learning about this language and culture for the following reasons:-

- We get excellent results - even better than Eton School!
- The Japanese are world leading innovators. They have relied on their creativity and scientific know how to succeed not only economically but also in ecology and efficiency orientated ways. We are constantly inspired by their sense of business, their futuristic robotics and optical media.
- Japanese speakers are the internet's third largest language group - after only English and Chinese speakers.
- Our students simply love learning Japanese, especially the boys. They are also fascinated by all of the Japanese cultural exports - from anime to sushi bars, karaoke to manga, bonsai to origami.

We learned so much from this exciting cultural exchange programme. Sincere thanks to Miss Langsam and Mr Iwai for their great attention to detail and fabulous organisational skills. But our greatest sense of thanks goes out to the parents and students who have made this inspirational exchange possible.

Please have a look at the article from Sumire. It was such a privilege to get to know the Konan High School students. They really are a part of our school culture and tradition. Also, please see the speeches which were presented during the Japanese Ceremony on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March from Fred Varley,

Kevin McKellar



I really enjoyed everything at Hendon School. It was fun going to school with Mr McKellar. We had a lot of conversations in the car which helped me to improve my English speaking skills and sometimes he sang a song for me.

All lessons I had were so interesting. I had quite a lot of English lessons with Mr Hewitt, he was always kind and tried to improve our English skills. All Konan students loved the way he laughed. French and Italian lessons were hard for me because I've never learned them before. However, both teachers were very energetic and taught us lots of useful words. PE, Food Technology, Art and Dance lessons were quite fun as well. I liked Shepherd's Pie so much. I'll make it in Japan for my family!!

Aoife was my host student at Hendon. She looked after me very nicely. Without her, I wouldn't be able to enjoy my stay in London. I enjoyed lunch time with Aoife, her friends and delicious school lunch.

The trip to The National Gallery, Trafalgar and Leicester Square with Hendon students and teachers were very enjoyable. Although the weather was strange I had a great time there.

Visiting a primary school was one of my best experiences. There was a lot of difficulty teaching the children in English. However, the children were very cute and asked me a lot of questions about Japan and I made many friends there.

Through this exchange programme I learned so many important things and made many friends here in London. I loved the time going to school with Mr McKellar. I loved all the lessons and teachers at Hendon School. I loved spending time with Hendon Students. All people I met at Hendon School were so nice. When I got lost they helped me, when I was walking they said "Hello" or "Konnichiwa" and gave me a big smile. They made my stay comfortable and enjoyable.

What I want to say is thank you. Thanks to all teachers and students in Hendon School. I hope I will come back to London and see people in Hendon School again!!

Sumire Hironaka

Visiting Japan was one of the most incredible things I have ever done. There were so many new and exciting things to see and to do and to taste: Shibuya station that was powered by walking, beautiful Japanese shrines, delicious Obento boxes that my host made for me, and the vending machines everywhere you can get hot soup from. Tokyo was totally different to London, like it was 50 years in the future (with high-tech gadgets everywhere and a futuristic transport system). It was also a lot cleaner.

But my favourite part of going to Japan was how kind and considerate everyone was, especially when we kept making mistakes. Everybody I met at Konan made us welcome and special, and went out of their way to make sure we had a wonderful experience of Japan. The students that showed us round were kind and polite, the friends we met there would go the extra mile to make sure we had a good time and the host families lovingly took us into their homes and treated us like family. My host family must have made the biggest impact on me. It was odd living with a family so different in culture to mine. I found some of the things to be very strange, like indoor slippers, making different food (like takoyaki- which was very fun) and having toilets that I couldn't figure out how to use. They let me have their room and took me out to see anything and everything I wanted. And even though my host parent didn't speak any English, he was still very enthusiastic to make me feel welcome and at home. I hope I did half as well as they did at hosting me.

That kindness and care for us guests is what I loved about Konan High school, and about Japan.

Fred Varley 11.2

Ever since I found out about Hendon School holding a trip to Japan, I knew that I just couldn't pass on this once in a lifetime opportunity.

You see, my older sister *also* went to Japan with the school, when *she* was in Year 10 and seeing how much she gained from it, just encouraged me take up Japanese even more.

Since returning back home from Japan, people have often asked how it was and usually my response is, 'I can't tell you how incredible it was, you'd simply have to go for yourself to understand'. Today I am faced with the same dilemma as I still can't tell you just how much I learned from that fulfilling experience.

When visiting Konan High school, the students were not only highly polite and welcoming, but they had the greatest amount of enthusiasm when it came to learning. Whilst being in Japan, the lesson I learned was that education is highly valuable and without it, I wouldn't have been so fortunate to have these precious 12 days to embrace the Japanese culture and enable me to hold these wonderful memories for myself.

Thank you.

Phoebe White 10.1

There is no doubt that for pupils entering Hendon School, one of the most exciting things is that, of all possible languages, they will be learning Japanese, and that they will have the opportunity to travel not just a couple of hundred miles, but to the other side of the world to Japan.

Here at Hendon we have the opportunity in the student exchange with Konan High School, to visit Japan and stay in Japanese homes and in return to host Japanese pupils in our own homes. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity for some, but for others, like myself, also opens the doors for further learning in the hope that we can one day return. The surreal sights of Tokyo and regular family life in Hamamatsu were experiences that I am grateful for, and through this exchange I have a bank of memories and stories that will stay with me - and all who go - forever.

This school is halfway defined, even to people who are still yet to start here, by the knowledge that it offers Japanese as part of its curriculum. And to people who don't know anything about the school it always seems a moment of wonder to them when in asking about the school they learn that Japanese is taught here, and taught well.

Japanese is a difficult language, but it's rewarding in many ways. There is a new way of thinking and a new way of communicating to be learned - not just through our language skills but through our appreciation of how this language works, and its relation to culture it operates within.

In that way we also move towards not only linguistic fluency but also towards cultural fluency. This has been one of the most unique things about being at Hendon School. By studying distant cultures and the differences between that culture and ours we begin to better understand our own culture.

There was a recent threat to Japanese GCSE from our government. Any move to stop or limit the learning of languages would have separated so many students from the possibility that we one day might - just as much as the children of those who can afford private tutoring still will - be in a position to make lasting friendships and maybe work within those cultures.

I think it is important because I expect that one day I shall be the mother of students and I want them to embrace the world in all its variety, and not be limited a mentality that cherry picks what part of the world it is thought to be acceptable to study. It would be tragic to allow other, more privileged students to study the subjects, fill the posts and make the friendships that would be denied to us.

We don't want to narrow the world or have the world narrowed for us. We want to embrace it and to be helped to embrace it. Any change to the learning we benefit from ...would be disastrous. With the existing teachers, an existing curriculum, and our friendly links with schools in Japan, it seems unimaginable that these links should have been threatened, these fantastic resources wasted, and an identity lost. I hope that the teaching and learning of Japanese at Hendon School carries on into the far, far future.

Rachel Mumford 12.1

From the time I started learning Japanese, I had always wanted to visit Japan. I remember eagerly listening to experiences of older students' visits and wishing I were able to go and have as much of an enjoyable time as them. I then finally reached my fourth year of studying the fascinating language and was told I had been chosen to go on the exchange trip and was over the moon.

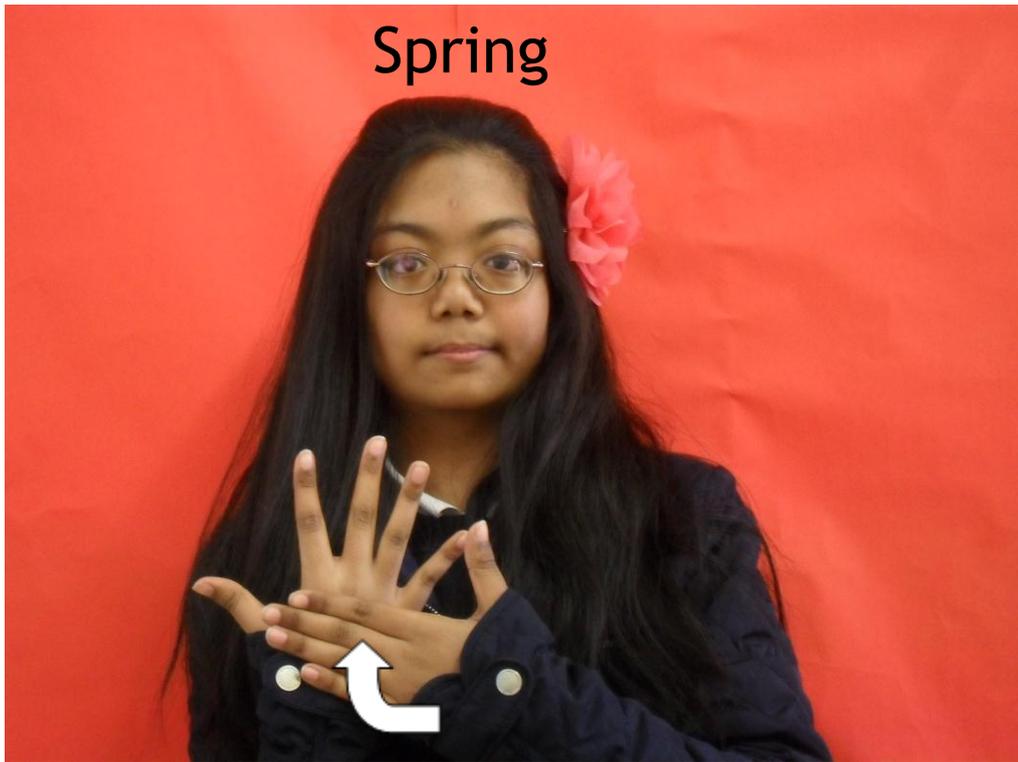
Despite having gone on the exchange program 4 years ago, I can still clearly remember all the wonderful experiences; meeting new people and trying to communicate in a different language, visiting new places and trying all the wonderful food.

One of my fondest memories was stepping outside Narita airport and realizing that I had finally made it to Japan. Being able to speak in a different language and having the knowledge that I was actually being understood gave me such a boost in confidence, four years of dedication was finally paying off.

Another great part of the trip was having a firsthand experience in Japanese culture. I was able to experience the true force of it, being able to taste authentic food, dress up in traditional clothing and visit both modern and older attractions, experiences no classroom would be able to provide.

Spending time in Japan and communicating with various people in such a foreign language has showed me the importance in the learning of such a different language. It has inspired me to persevere and further my knowledge and understanding of it. I am proud to say that I am currently studying Japanese for A-levels and am thoroughly enjoying it. I someday wish to return to Japan so I can delve back into the rich culture that I have truly learnt to love.

Sangita Mistry 13.2



Monday 18 March - Friday 22 March		
Monday 18 March	Cricket Leaders out of School PE Sports Leaders Training Year 7 football vs Wren Academy (away) Year 8 football vs Totteridge Academy (home)	All day After School
Tuesday 19 March	Sociology Trip PSHEE Group MFL Year 11 Catch up day High Five Netball finals - Sports Leaders out of school	All day Period 1 Period 3-6
Wednesday 20 March	Year 7 St Paul's Maths and RE Trip Sociology Trip Parents' Coffee Morning PSHEE Groups Year 13 Maths Intervention Year 9 Girls basketball training Year 9 Girls netball tournament - St James School HOPE for Children charity sponsored swim	All day All day 9.00 - 10.00 am Period 3 & 5 3.40 - 4.40 pm After School 4 pm After School
Thursday 21 March	Year 11 History Trip to Belfast PSHEE Group Year 12 Maths Intervention All Girls netball training	Period 4 3.40 - 4.40 pm After school
Friday 22 March	Year 11 History Trip to Belfast Year 7 St Paul's Maths and RE Trip Year 10 PSHEE talk on Testicular & Breast Cancer awareness PE Department Rewards Trip to Hertford University	All day Period 4 5-10.30 pm